MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : As a matter of fact, the action that is now proposed to be taken will go a great way in relieving that inconvenience.

Conversion of Shertallai into a municipal town.

31. MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the necessity of converting Shertallai into a municipal town?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes. The proposal was dropped.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : May I know from the member from whom the proposal originated?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : There was a conference at Bhaktivilas in March 1931 to consider the question of the organization of Village Panchayats in the State. In that conference this question was mooted and after that the Government asked the Sanitary Commissioner and the Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, whether there was any necessity to have a Municipality at Shertallai. On the opinion of the Dewan Peishkar and the Sanitary Commissioner the Government decided that the matter may be dropped.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Was there any proposal from the local Tahsildar?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : Yes; but it was not a proposal exactly. In answer to the question raised by the Dewan Peishkar, the Shertallai Tahsildar submitted a report on that question.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Shertallai*) : Was the question ever brought before the Assembly or the Council before this?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*) : I have no information about that.

Action on the recommendations of the Minor Irrigation Committee.

32. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Will the Government be pleased to state, giving details, what action, if any, has been taken by them on the recommendations of the Minor Irrigation Committee since the last meeting of the Legislative Council?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*) : The information asked for from certain officers of Government, as a preliminary to the further action contemplated, is being awaited.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : The answer to my question is that the opinion asked for from certain officers of Government is being awaited. May I know who these "certain officers of Government" are and what their opinion is?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Governmnet*) : The Land Revenue Commissioner has been addressed in regard to the amendment of the Remission Rules so as to make it more elastic to cover the cases recommended by the Committee. That is one reference.

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[Mr. C. N. Srirenganatha Sastri.]

The Additional Head Sirkar Vakil has been addressed about the amendments necessary to the Irrigation Regulation as recommended by the Committee. That is another reference. And the Chief Engineer has been addressed in regard to the estimates for the irrigation protection works. That is also another reference.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know whether this information asked for was after receipt of my interpellation or before that ?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): These references were made before the receipt of this interpellation.

MR N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : May I know when exactly this information was called for from these officers ?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Some of the references were sent in July 1932 and, since the last Council, another reference has gone in September 1932. That was to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil to include a provision for recovering the cost of putting up bunds in punjapadam lands from persons who have to erect them, but who fail to do so at the proper time and thereby cause loss to the adjoining land owners. Before the last Council and after the last Council also, references have gone to these officers.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Has any of these officers sent in a reply ?

MR. C. N. SRIRENGANATHA SASTRI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Some of the officers have replied, and on their reply some other reference has gone. The Land Revenue Commissioner has replied, and a reference on that has gone to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Is the member aware that during the last meeting of the Legislative Council information was asked for by some of the members on this side of the House about the action taken on this report and even then the reply that Government gave was that correspondence was going on with certain officers of Government. May I know when this correspondence stage will conclude ?

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : As a matter of fact Government are taking, the matter being important, all possible steps to expedite the replies.

Qualification of applicants for constable's post in the Police Department.

33. MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any qualifications are prescribed for applicants for constables' post in the Police Department ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the qualifications so prescribed ; and

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